

And, Mr. Speaker, I yield back to my colleague.

Mr. BALLANCE. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague in those sentiments. Many times we do not even say thank you collectively to this group of people. They do not ask any questions. They are sort of like soldiers. When they see a problem, they just grab their equipment and go; and the community depends on them. We depend on them, and they save the government a lot of money. We hope that in some way we can figure out how to make available to them at least some types of equipment.

I heard, as I mentioned earlier, I heard the word "generator" mentioned over and over again. Hopefully, we can figure out a way to make some funding available to these small towns, rural areas, to have generators available to them when these crises come into the community. They can at least keep the water system and the sewer system going until we can get the power back on.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Along that line, Mr. Speaker, as we were talking about our volunteers, we have a bill in, as the gentleman well knows because he is a cosponsor of it and which I introduced, to provide a benefit. This fireman that lost his life in Franklin County may have very well have been eligible as a volunteer for the death benefit for those who are saving people's lives or helping save lives and ultimately give their life in that regards. That is something this Congress can do. I think currently we have about 276 Members who have signed that piece of legislation. Last time I checked, it takes about 218 to pass it. I hope we will move it.

Mr. BALLANCE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman again for organizing this Special Order tonight and thank him for that bill. I am very proud to be a part of it and am hopeful that it will come to fruition.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, my friend from the first district, for joining me this evening in this Special Order and to share with our colleagues here what North Carolina has gone through. And it is not just North Carolina when a hurricane hits. This one hit in North Carolina, but bad storms do not really know where county lines or State lines are; they just keep rolling. In this case, it rolled right through Virginia, where there was tremendous devastation in Virginia and in Richmond; and it rolled up into Maryland and the District of Columbia, where we saw power lines down, and we have seen here recently where people lost power and there was a fear that we would have flooding on a scale here in this city unlike what we had seen since the 1930s.

So it was a devastating storm that caused immense damage and a lot of heartache and loss of life. And the loss of lives were substantially more in Virginia and Maryland as it moved up the coast. Lives were lost, and the storm caused hundreds of millions of dollars

in damage to homes, roads, crops, and livestock. In North Carolina, I have to add beyond livestock, poultry too. We sort of think of that as being a little different.

The truth is many of these people that lost, even though FEMA is there helping and they have some insurance, they will not be made whole. They are coming up short. And the shame of it is that for many of them they had the flood in 1999, some of them did, the drought hit them last year, and now they have gotten a real bad body blow this year with another storm. I have talked to a number of the farmers and the interim commissioner of agriculture, and he is afraid some of these people just will not make it. And it is not because they are not good folks, they are not good farmers, they are not good people. It is just the fact that nature has hit them hard.

I hope that FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security, the administration, and certainly this Congress, recognize the need to support these storm-damaged areas through recovery and rebuilding, not only just on the outer banks of North Carolina, as we suffered in our State, but in Virginia, Maryland, the District of Columbia, and other places in Pennsylvania and up West Virginia, matter of fact, traveling all the way into Canada. I do not really think we are going to reach to Canada, but certainly we want to help our people here at home.

The United States has an outstanding and a very commendable record of responding to disasters around the globe. We are usually the first ones there. But I think now we need to respond with the same kind of effort and the same level of enthusiasm when disaster hits here at home. These are our neighbors. They are our friends. They are taxpaying citizens of the United States of America. And as my friends and colleagues have pointed out, they are not looking for a hand-out. They do not want that. They want an opportunity to get back in business, to get their lives back in order, and to once again be contributing taxpaying citizens of America.

They will do it. But they would do it a whole lot quicker if we could help them. North Carolina is suffering through one of the toughest economic times we have seen in a long time, and I commit to my colleagues that we are going to join hands and ask all our other colleagues from North Carolina and across the aisle, because these people in North Carolina need our help, and in Virginia and Maryland. It is our obligation, in my opinion, to make sure the job gets done.

Let me thank my colleagues one again, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLANCE), from the first district, whose district really was hit hard. Very hard. I think I only have about three counties, well four, Vance, Franklin, Nash, and possibly Sampson may be put in that

group that have been declared disaster counties. Others may be added. At least one more. But it is tough.

I remember going through Floyd, when almost all of them were in it, and it is tough to see people lose everything they have. I remember when I went in the Rocky Mountains, and the lady was sitting beside the road trying to go through a family Bible. It was wet, and that was all she had been able to save because that had her family photographs in it. These are the kinds of things that happen. These are the things you cannot replace. But we sure can help them get their lives back in order.

I thank my colleagues for their help in this Special Order this evening. We will keep our colleagues up to date on what is happening in North Carolina and with our friends in Virginia and Maryland.

PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say that there is finally light at the end of the tunnel in what has been a long battle. Tomorrow, the House is poised to pass the conference report on S. 3, the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003. This conference report represents several years of hard work on the part of the Congress to produce a bill that passes constitutional muster.

Since 1995, State legislators in both Houses of Congress have passed laws with broad bipartisan support banning this barbaric procedure. Although successful in 31 States, twice bills passed by Congress to ban partial-birth abortion were vetoed by President Clinton. However, I am happy to say that President Bush has indicated that he will sign this bill into law and ban what he calls this abhorrent procedure that offends human dignity.

We have several Members here joining me to speak on why this needs to happen, and I want to first yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE).

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me; and more importantly, I thank the gentleman for hosting this critical Special Order on the eve of some extraordinarily good news for the right to life in America.

As the gentleman from Minnesota just suggested, it is astonishing to think how long it has taken this Congress to address this issue, literally first coming to the floor of the 104th Congress on November 1, 1995. That was the day that Congress first considered the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. And here we stand in October of 2003, 8 years almost to the day since; and we

are on the eve of this legislation actually becoming law, passing a conference report that will go to a President who, unlike the past administration, will not veto this ban of this barbaric procedure, but will sign it with the humility and the gratitude of the American people in his heart.

□ 2045

Mr. Speaker, partial-birth abortion is truly an antiseptic word to describe a barbaric procedure, and I believe it is important as we begin this conversation today to reflect however briefly on the barbarism of this procedure, aided as we are by some less-than-graphic images, but nonetheless effective.

What is described in these images, hopefully tastefully, for families that may be watching across the country, happens several thousand times a year. Healthy mothers carrying healthy babies in the fifth or sixth month of pregnancy undergo a procedure which has come to be known as partial-birth abortion. As is depicted in these images, a doctor inserting the forceps forcibly causes the unborn child into a breech position in the birth canal, feet first for lay people like me.

After that with the assistance of the forceps, the child is then forcibly pulled out, delivered breech through the birth canal out of the mother by his or her leg, and once the child is removed from the birth canal, at least until the base of the head is available, the procedure is quite horrible in and of itself, but it becomes fitting to refer to it as barbaric from there, for here, as I emphasize, Mr. Speaker, children who in most cases would be able to live outside the womb, literally inches from birth, are then held in the birth canal, stabbed at the base of the back of their skull and the contents of their brains forcefully removed by a suction vacuum device. Once the head is collapsed, the remains of the unborn child are removed.

It is no small wonder that that liberal lion, the late great Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, referred to this procedure as "near infanticide." Tonight, I know we will hear from many of our colleagues, and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY) who chairs this Special Order, we will hear arguments about constitutionality and about why this law which will come to this Chamber tomorrow and go to the President's desk within days is superior to laws which have been challenged successfully at the State level at our own Supreme Court.

But I would like to begin our Special Order tonight with none of those arguments, none of the discussion about constitutionality or endorsements, or even that the American Medical Association said that "this procedure is never the only appropriate procedure, never medically necessary." I would rather begin tonight by suggesting that what is not arguable to the overwhelming majority of the American public is that this practice is inherently, morally wrong.

What is not arguable is the practice of delivering an unborn child feet first and holding it in the birth canal while the back of its head is stabbed with a suction device is evil. That is not arguable. What we will render unlawful tomorrow and then with the President's signature is what virtually every American knows in their heart is evil and morally wrong, and so the polls attest to that moral conscience of the American people.

As I yield back to the gentleman, I am mindful of that Bible verse that whatsoever you do for the least of these, you do for me, the Lord tells us. And I submit what we will do in this Congress tomorrow, banning this barbaric procedure known as partial-birth abortion, is the least we can do for the least of these.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank the gentleman for his leadership on this critical issue on the eve of such an important legislative accomplishment.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for clearly and crisply outlining why we find this procedure so abhorrent and why we find it important to pass this tomorrow.

Since I had a young nephew that was born less than 2 pounds, a pound and then some, sadly, three to 5,000 young children, most of them, many of them bigger than my nephew was born, have lost their lives through partial-birth abortion; and it is time that we end this. It is deplorable that a country like ours which was founded on the respect for life has continued to allow this terrible practice.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN).

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, no matter where we stand on the abortion issue, most Americans agree the brutal and horrific practice of partial-birth abortion needs to end. In previous Congresses, legislation to ban partial-birth abortion has been thwarted by Presidential veto. This year President Bush will sign this bill into law, making it the first abortion-limiting law on the books since *Roe v. Wade* was enacted.

This is truly a historic moment and a milestone for the rights of the unborn. This is also a historic time for this Congress. We have listened to the will of our constituents, and we hear them loud and clear. They demand a ban on partial-birth abortion. According to a recently Gallup Poll conducted earlier this year, 70 percent of Americans favor a law which would make this procedure illegal except in cases necessary to save the life of the mother.

The outrage over this grotesque practice is nothing new. The American Medical Association has said, "The partial delivery of a living fetus for the purpose of killing it outside the womb is ethically offensive to most Americans and physicians. It degrades the medical practice and cheapens the value of life."

As a husband and father of four beautiful children, I have a deep respect for

the sanctity of life and the miracle of childbirth. I have been at every one of my children's births, and what the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) described as having to stop the head of a child because if it comes out, you cannot kill it, you have to stop the head, and to stick a device in the back of the head and suck the brains out should not happen in the United States of America or anywhere else in the world. There is no place in a civilized society for this horrific act.

This evening we can take solace in the fact that the nightmare of partial-birth abortion will soon end. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the conference report.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN), and he and I are not alone in the position that this should end. A Gallup Poll conducted in January found that 70 percent of those surveyed favored banning this horrible procedure. Even doctors agree on this point. The overwhelming share of doctors believe this procedure is not necessary. The partial-birth abortion procedure has been labeled as not good medicine by the AMA. Respected medical professionals like former Surgeon General Everett Koop testified in 1996 that partial-birth abortion is never medically necessary to protect the mother's health and future fertility.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in great anticipation of a historic action we will be taking tomorrow in this House. Tomorrow we will vote on a conference report that will ban the cruel practice of partial-birth abortion. With the passage of this conference report, we will finally eradicate a brutal practice that is inflicted upon the most innocent of our society, the unborn.

I am not going to outline the gory details of this practice, because others have done that; but I will say that medical experts have repeatedly testified that fetuses are fully able to feel pain after 20 weeks of development, the time at which most partial-birth abortions take place. Thus, these babies are fully able to feel the terrible pain that is being inflicted upon them.

Opponents of this bill argue that it is unconstitutional because it does not provide an exemption for when the health of the mother is at risk. I would point out that health experts have testified time and time again that a partial-birth abortion is never needed to save the life of a mother. In fact, the American Medical Association has stated that this procedure often poses a serious health risk to the mother.

Mr. Speaker, life is the most precious gift and opportunity we are given as human beings. Robbing children of that opportunity is wrong, wrong, wrong. Three times the House of Representatives has passed a ban on partial-birth abortions. President Clinton vetoed it twice, and last year the leadership in

the other body refused to take up the bill. We finally are presented with an opportunity to take a giant step forward in banning this gruesome practice. President Bush has said he would sign a ban on partial-birth abortion, and I encourage all Members to vote for the conference report tomorrow, and finally we will put an end to a violent attack on our most innocent citizens.

Almost 3 years ago when I started to run for office, I told the people of the 9th Congressional District of Pennsylvania that it would be a great day in America when we passed a bill banning partial-birth abortion. Tomorrow it will be a great day in America.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY) for putting this Special Order together, and God bless America.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, even the strongest abortion rights supporters have a hard time defending this procedure. In four of the last five Congresses, Congress has passed a partial-birth abortion ban by a two-thirds majority. Instead, abortion rights supporters insist this procedure is rare and used only in the most extreme positions to avoid serious physical injury to the mother. Nothing could be further from the truth. Hundreds of obstetricians have stated they regularly treat women for medical conditions used to rationalize partial-birth abortions, and these babies are regularly delivered with no threat to the mother's health or future fertility. These medical reasons include depression and other treatable conditions like emotional trauma, psychological problems, and age. While these may be serious, I do not think that they warrant the life of an otherwise healthy unborn child.

Even Dr. Martin Haskell who has performed more than a thousand of these abortions has stated that 80 percent of those were purely elective, meaning the health had nothing to do with it. What is most disturbing is that multiple doctors have testified that this procedure is typically done on healthy women with healthy unborn children after 20 weeks when a baby can often survive without assistance for hours outside the womb.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER).

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my support for the partial-birth abortion ban. On June 5, I stood in these very Chambers and took the oath of office to be sworn in to the 108th Congress. I said at that time while I was on the floor that the only regret I had was that I was not here the day on June 4 when this body passed the partial-birth abortion bill and sent it to the Senate. I said that day I was looking forward to tonight and tomorrow when we are going to have an opportunity, I will have an opportunity to cast that very vote, that very important vote.

Mr. Speaker, we have been at war in this country for many years. Ameri-

cans are working hard today to stop the killing fields in Iraq, and tomorrow we are going to stop the killing fields in America.

□ 2100

These cultural wars have divided our country. Yet our desire for respecting life will win out tomorrow.

The issue of abortion is a very personal and emotional one that requires considerable reflection. I believe the sanctity of human life must be honored and the rights of the unborn need to be protected.

I believe that some women are not ready for the enormous responsibility of motherhood, and that is the reason that we need to make sure that we make other options available to them. And the parents should play a very active role in helping, sometimes, children make these very important decisions.

I know that during the Clinton administration, the President vetoed this bill twice, and I am happy to be working with a President who once and for all will sign this bill into law. I know my constituents would certainly like to see this practice banned, and I intend to watch this happen on this floor tomorrow.

No compassionate person wants to see a woman suffer the personal tragedy of abortion. Women deserve better than partial-birth abortion. The argument that partial-birth abortion provides some benefit, even in tragic cases, is false, and women should not have to bear the psychological burden that is the result of such flawed reasoning.

Women who experience abortions also experience the psychological pain of being present at the destruction and disposal of their babies, suffering that is virtually incomprehensible to anyone who has not experienced it. What is more, many women look for a way out at the last moments before an abortion, by whatever method, but their appeals are sometimes disregarded. This is especially true when many of those are sedated during this procedure.

We stand on the precipice of a great victory for the pro-life movement tomorrow. By committing to our children, we are investing in the future of America and the future greatness of our proud country. I appreciate this opportunity to speak on behalf of this bill.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. I thank my friend from Texas.

I would just remind us to keep in mind that under Federal and most State laws, a live birth is when a baby is entirely delivered from a mother and shows any sign of life, regardless of whether or not it has yet reached the stage where it can survive independently of the mother. Under the doctrine set by the Supreme Court, such a baby, no matter how premature, is a person and is protected under the law. Even worse, scientists have shown that babies at such a stage certainly experi-

ence great pain during partial-birth abortion. On this fact alone, we should ban this procedure.

I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS).

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, you may recall that I stood here in June to tell the story of little Samuel Alexander Armas, the little boy who was operated on at 21 weeks for his spina bifida condition. Baby Samuel's famous grasp of the doctor's finger as he reached out of the mother's womb gave us all a new and profound gratitude for the miracle of life. And now, Mr. Speaker, just this month, doctors in England have recorded the smiles of unborn children at just 24 weeks through advanced ultrasound. I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, without this legislation, how many smiles will we miss having the privilege of sharing?

But, Mr. Speaker, an historic day is nearly upon the United States Congress, for tomorrow we will extend the hand of hope to the unborn. We will vote to protect unborn children from this unspeakable and horrifying procedure called partial-birth abortion.

Seven years ago, such a bill was first passed by Congress, but then, tragically, it was vetoed by President Bill Clinton. Since then, unborn children numbering in the thousands have been unmercifully killed by this barbaric, nightmarish procedure. There is no greater mark of shame or disgrace upon the Clinton administration.

But now, thankfully, Mr. Speaker, this Nation has a new President, and President George Bush will sign this bill into law and a new day will have dawned in America. Because even though this bill will not protect the other 4,000 unborn children that die each day in America from abortion on demand, it marks a turning point in the soul of this Nation, because it points to a day when that warm sunlight of life will finally break through the clouds and shine once again on the faces of unborn children in this country.

When that day comes, and it will, Mr. Speaker, history and coming generations will remember that it was George Bush and Members of this Congress who found the courage to reach out and take the tiny hand of an unnamed baby and refuse to let go until the storm was gone.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. I thank the Member from Arizona.

Partial-birth abortion, it is often said is there, to try to help the women's health. But so often it is detrimental to the very things that people say it is trying to help. So often women suffer from depression and psychological stress after having performed this procedure. So this again is something that we need, as a Congress, to act on tomorrow.

I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN).

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to do something just a little different

now and step back just a small amount from our debate. Sometimes it is good to step back and see the forest.

And so what I would like to do would be to ask a question of those of you who are paying attention to this rather grave moment in the history of our Nation; and that is a very simple question. What is it that has made America, America? What was it that caused people from every nation and every tribe and all over the globe to come to this great land and live in a land where there is prosperity and freedom? I understand there are the detractors, but all of the paths across our borders that are being beaten by immigrants tell the story that there is something special about America.

What is that special thing? If somebody put a camera in front of you and said, what is it that makes America a special place? How would you summarize in one sentence the essence, the formula that is America?

If it were me, I would look back to the document of our birthday, to that great second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence, a long sentence. It says, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

The sentence goes on from there and says that the purpose of government is to protect those God-given rights: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That means that there is a very simple formula that is the heart of America: There is a God, He grants us unalienable rights, and the job of government is to protect those rights.

If the government does not protect those basic rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, gentlemen, we have failed in the basic function of why we were here in the first place. We might as well jump on our airplanes and go home and stick our heads in the sand, because that is the purpose of why we are here.

There are some people today who would say, I don't like the formula, I don't agree with that, I don't think there is a God that gives unalienable rights. There were people in those days, we called them Tories, who felt that way as well. But they did not win.

America was built on that basic set of ideas. As we have gone along in time, that set of ideas has proven the test of time and we have been blessed with freedom and prosperity.

But there have been those, those days which I think of as pages in our history that we are not as proud of. There are some gray days in our history. One was in some of our relations with our own brothers, the Indians. There was a Trail of Tears of the Cherokee people that was a gray page in our history.

In the mid-1800s, there was an even grayer page as our Nation grappled and dealt with the terrible scourge of slavery in this land. At that time, the first

President of my political party, the Republicans, took charge and under his administration saw fit to try to get rid of those dark pages in America's history.

And then we moved forward to the time when I was born, and unfortunately during the time that I have been alive, the blackest page yet in American history was opened in the process of abortion, where we denied the most basic tenet of what makes America, the right for people to be alive, because if you are not alive, it does not do any good to have freedom of speech or freedom to own property or any other right if you are dead. And of these practices of abortion, the worst, the most obviously evil, is this practice of partial-birth abortion.

As an ironic history, as a matter of fact, some pro-lifers brought it to the attention of the media and the media said, Oh, that couldn't possibly happen. They checked with the pro-abortion people. Oh, that doesn't happen. Then the media found out that they had been lied to.

That is the only thing that seems to make the media really mad is when they get lied to. So they started to let people know what this practice of partial-birth abortion is. I did not like biology very well, and the pictures that I see of it I can hardly stand.

Consider that there is a child that has lived 9 months, he is instantly away from taking his first breath of fresh air, of freedom and we are going to poke a hole in the back of his skull and suck out his brains. It makes me sick. It made a lot of other Americans sick as well.

And so it is now that we come to this momentous time, tomorrow, when there is a possibility that we can close again a dark page of America's past. We can close the page on the nightmare of partial-birth abortion. And we can once again reaffirm those truths that we stand by, that there are basic rights given to all mankind everywhere by our God and that the most basic right of any government is to protect the life, that precious life made in the image of our Creator, the life of our little children.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. I thank the Member from Missouri. I thank him for calling us all back to our roots, to what this country has always stood for, what this country was built upon, the respect for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

I would also like to call on the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) for his remarks.

Mr. BURGESS. I thank my friend from Minnesota for showing the leadership of gathering this special order tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to speak out tonight to express my strong support for the passage of the conference report on the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003. As a physician who has dedicated over two decades of my life to the practice of obstetrics, I believe this

unnecessary procedure should be banned.

I have delivered over 3,000 babies. I am personally opposed to abortion; but in particular, the only reason to select the partial-birth abortion procedure is to ensure one thing, and that is that you have a dead baby at the end of the procedure.

As a physician, I recognize that serious complications can occur during the last trimester of pregnancy. However, if the mother's health dictates that the pregnancy must be concluded and a normal birth is not possible, deliver the baby by C-section. Whether the infant lives or dies is then determined by the severity of the medical complications and the degree of prematurity. But the outcome is dictated by the disease process itself. The fate of the infant during the partial-birth abortion procedure is predetermined by the nature of the procedure and is uniformly fatal to the baby.

During my two decades of obstetrics, with my share of high-risk pregnancies, I never, never encountered a situation where the partial-birth abortion procedure was required. I believe it is an inhumane act that is not ever medically necessary.

The procedure itself, always fatal to the baby, carries risks for the mother as well. Partial-birth abortions are done in the third trimester, and at that point, the child has all the characteristics of what we normally associate with a healthy newborn. Through the use of technology, prospective moms and dads have the opportunity to see how life develops before birth. Parents can now watch the beating of their unborn child's heart as early as 21 days after conception and can see the movement of the child's arms and legs at 3 months.

□ 2115

In 1995, a panel of 12 doctors representing the American Medical Association voted unanimously to recommend banning the partial-birth abortion procedure, calling it "basically repulsive." I agree with the AMA that it is repulsive, and, moreover, it is unnecessary. I strongly support the passage of the conference report to the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003. Just like my good friend from Missouri, I believe that the United States Constitution is very clear when it guarantees a right to life. Partial-birth abortion has no place in a civilized society. Thankfully, after tomorrow it will no longer be around.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas, and with great authority with his medical experience he speaks out the truth that this is a procedure that America must ban.

I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY), someone who has equal authority from the medical field.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and giving me an opportunity tonight as a physician Member, and particularly as an

OBGYN physician Member, just like my colleague from Texas.

During my campaign and these 9 months that I have served in Congress since the election, back in the district probably the most frequent question that I am asked is "Phil, do you miss it? Do you miss your practice? You gave up a great profession, and you delivered all those babies, over 5,000 during a 27-year career." And the answer to them is, of course, I miss it. I miss it tremendously. What a wonderful opportunity and a calling it was to be a physician, and, in particular, to bring life into the world. And I am very proud, of course, to say that in all those 27 years, I have never once performed an abortion. But maybe God, and I guess, Mr. Speaker, it is okay for me to say "God" in this Chamber, maybe God had a higher calling for me, wanted me to have an opportunity to do something even greater, Mr. Speaker, than bringing a precious life into the world.

One of my supporters during the campaign, when I asked him for help in helping me get elected, he said, "Phil, I am going to support you if you promise to do one thing. I want you to promise me that you will just do good when you get to the Congress."

I know now tomorrow, I have an opportunity to do something very good, an opportunity to vote to ban an abominable procedure known as partial-birth abortion, and I do not know how many years of life I have got left, but when I cast that vote tomorrow, and I have that privilege, that honor, that distinction of being one of 535 Members of this Congress out of some 275, 280 million people to make that vote, and when we pass this bill, yet once again for the third time, we have a President in George W. Bush who is committed to finally end this abomination. And I just cannot help but think about all the lives that now I have an opportunity to save forever, and maybe it will be far more than the 5,200 that I have already delivered.

We have heard from other Members on this issue and seen the graphic description of this procedure, and I will not go into that again, but I can tell my colleagues as a physician, there is no reason, there is never a reason for the health of the mother to perform an abortion in the third trimester of pregnancy. We are talking about, for those who do not understand trimester, we divide a pregnancy into thirds, but when one gets into that third trimester, we are talking about children, fetuses if they want to call them that, but literally who are 4½ to 5 pounds, fully capable of life outside the womb. And what people are doing in this procedure is, literally, killing these children, as the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) indicated, so that they are born dead, and, therefore, are characterized as an abortion, but what they are doing is no different than taking, literally, a child that is lying there in the bassinet at 4½ pounds and sticking

a knife through his chest. It is the exact same effect. One is legal and one is not legal. One is called an abortion. The other is called murder, but there is no difference and make no mistake about it. What the mother is put through in this process of partial-birth abortion in the interest of preserving her health is one of the most dangerous medical procedures one could possibly do.

It is something that is so clear in my mind as a physician, as a compassionate human being, that I cannot really understand how anybody could not vote to ban this procedure. And I say to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, men and women, this is not about Roe v. Wade. This is not even so much pro-life and pro-choice, although the Members of this body that are speaking tonight are passionately pro-life. But this procedure needs to be banned because it is nothing more than murder in a so-called legalized fashion, and it does nothing to protect the health of the mother.

So I am very proud to tell my colleagues tonight that my vote will be very strong to ban this abomination known as partial-birth abortion, and I want to thank the gentleman from Minnesota for giving us this time tonight to talk about this procedure and, specifically, giving me time to address it.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I think one can see the passion that we who are gathered here today have for ending this cruel procedure. We have heard from the AMA. We have heard from two doctors in a row who confirm the AMA's belief that this procedure is not only not necessary, as the AMA would say, but as the last two physicians so eloquently said, is a cruel procedure that's time has long since passed, should have never started, should never have been allowed to start in the first place, but now we are calling upon it to end.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the dean of the pro-life caucus, a man who has dedicated decades of his life here in Congress to try to lead the effort on repealing partial-birth abortion and so many other pro-life issues, and will be a big factor in our success when President Bush finally signs this.

So again, it is an honor for me to yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my very good friend and colleague not only for his leadership tonight, but for many years on behalf of the rights of the unborn and their mothers. He has been a stalwart. He has been compassionate, and I thank him for his leadership. And I would like to thank my colleagues who have spoken, the two docs, and the other Members who have spoken tonight so eloquently and passionately in favor of protecting the most innocent

and the most at-risk minority in America today and that is the unborn children and the other victims of abortion, who every time that victim is the mother, many of whom who have been cast aside. They have been hurt and hurt very severely as a result of abortion.

Just a couple of months ago we hosted, a number of us, a group of four women including Jennifer O'Neil, the actress who was in "Summer of '42." She was a former Cover Girl. Melba Moore, an accomplished singer, four women who have had abortions, who have become part of a group called Silent No More. They have spoken out, and I encourage women who might be listening to this or men or who know someone who has had an abortion and is living with that agony to know that there is hope, there is reconciliation. The pro-life movement has always been about speaking truth to power, to Government and to those who would take the life of an unborn child, but also speaking truth and reconciliation to those women who have been victimized by abortion, including partial-birth abortion. Silentnomoreawareness.org can be accessed through the Web or through contacting our various offices. It is an outstanding means of reaching out to these women who are hurting.

During the course of their conversations, one woman who had two abortions talked about how she had so many sleepless nights. She thought that she could never hold a child again in her hand. Jennifer O'Neil had talked about the pressure that had been put upon her time and again by her family members who thought they were doing something benign and good for her, while actually hurting her severely, unwittingly but nevertheless hurting her severely. And she carried that pain for years, and now speaks out passionately to the women of America to come forward and know that there is reconciliation and to warn other women not to march into that abortion clinic and get a partial-birth abortion or any of the other methods that dismember or chemically poison unborn children.

I just would point out to my colleagues that some 62 years ago, from a podium right up there by the Speaker, Franklin Delano Roosevelt gave his famous speech after the attack on Pearl Harbor and called December 7 "a day that would live in infamy." I would point out to my colleagues that as a result of that, as we all know, some 55 million people around the world lost their lives to that global conflict.

Another day of infamy less visible but no less lethal, the imposition of abortion on demand by the U.S. Supreme Court in Roe v. Wade on January 22, 1973, has unleashed an assault on innocent human life that is absolutely staggering, about 44.4 million dead babies, children, and counting. The loss of so many innocent children by chemical poisoning, by literal dismemberment and suction machines 20 to 30 times more powerful than an average vacuum machine that all of us

have in our homes, ripping apart that child; and now we see this cruel and unthinkable method where a baby, very late-term, as the doc pointed out a moment ago, third trimester, some in their second trimester but late second trimester, very mature babies where a doctor literally punctures their brains, usually with Metzenbaum scissors, to make a hole so that the baby's brains could be sucked out.

That is pathetic child abuse, and thankfully tomorrow the House, with the leadership of so many Members, especially with our President, will be putting into effect when the Senate finally adopts it as well, which they will, signs this ban into law.

Let me just give an idea of the numbers again, because I think sometimes we, in our entertainment-oriented age and the fact that we can go from one distraction to another, forget how many people have been lost. I mentioned 44.4 million. I am a big Yankee fan.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. We have a disagreement on that issue.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. My team lost to his last night. Yankee Stadium was filled to capacity, 56,292 people. The number of lives that have been lost since *Roe v. Wade*, 44.4 million, and picture this, it would be like filling Yankee Stadium every single day for 788 days full of children who are then slaughtered. The horrific loss of life, that is a staggering loss of life, is beyond almost any of our comprehensions to grasp, and yet that is what has happened in the 30 years since *Roe v. Wade*.

It has been done in what seems to be the pristine environment of an abortion clinic. We know that is not often case. Many of these so-called doctors are anything but. They are at the lower level of the medical chain, if you will, food chain, and I have known some abortion doctors, some of whom have actually become pro-life, and they talk about the squalor, the killing that goes on every day and the mental impact it even has on them.

So I just want to say to my colleagues that tomorrow we take, I think, a major step forward in trying to stop some of this killing, and I think the logical among us, the logical people out there in America, will begin connecting the dots and saying if it is so horrific to kill a baby with partial-birth abortion, why is suction okay? Why is D & E and all the other methods that are no less gruesome but a little bit more invisible because they do not happen as late in the stage of the pregnancy and they are not as visible as a partial-birth abortion, why are they any less of an act of child abuse? And this is all about child abuse. Again, there are two victims in every abortion, and my hope is that tomorrow we take a step forward in protecting these children from this cruelty.

I thank my good friend.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from

New Jersey. I thank him for his leadership on this very important issue, on protecting the lives of those babies that have been lost in this horrific procedure, to keep this from happening in the future.

I now yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) to also continue the reasons why it is we need to, as a Congress, pass this bill tomorrow and send it to the President's desk.

□ 2130

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY) for his leadership in organizing this tonight and letting me participate in this.

I have been involved in the pro-life movement for many years. Not as long as Grandpa SMITH who literally, along with the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), have been the crusaders in the United States Congress and have kept this issue alive and have never let anyone in this Congress, House or Senate, or the administration, forget the importance of this. This is just a huge day for him in particular. Because I have been in many meetings with leadership over the years and different things and they say, man, that CHRIS SMITH, sometimes he just gets obsessed on this issue. And he has, literally, while he has done many other things here in Congress, has focused on this issue and helped keep Congress focused on this.

I want to share a little bit of a different thought, not about the procedure itself, but some of the history behind it, because I am a little older than some of the other guys here. When the pro-life movement really started in the late 1960s and early 1970s, as we became concerned that California and New York had opened up abortion procedures and were letting people from States like Indiana where people had chosen not to have abortion moved to those States, we were stunned.

I was in graduate school at the University of Notre Dame. We had organized a conservative club there, and we had started to look at the abortion movement when, on January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court took in its hands, overruled all of the States in America, and said, these poor little children are unprotected. We were stunned. In those first 48 hours, Dr. Charles Rice, who was our advisor to our group, wrote the Human Life Amendment for then-Congressman Larry Hogan, and it was introduced shortly after that decision. Dr. John Wilke, who was one of the original founders of the National Right to Life's daughter was at Notre Dame and she and I, along with Chuck Donavan and Rich Maji and Leo Bukinani and others, formed a group called the Student Committee for the Human Life Amendment within 48 hours of that decision. We organized across the country.

In fact, one of the first meetings I was at was with the bishop in South Bend with a lot of the leaders, different

priests and other activists; and after we talked about abortion a little bit, they talked about baptizing the fetuses. I held up my hand and I said, I think that actually is a religious issue. And the bishop leaned back and said, ah, a Protestant among us. The truth is that in the early days of the pro-life movement, the Protestant Church was asleep. Most of America was asleep. The Catholic Church understood more what was happening.

Over the years, the pro-life movement got organized, and we thought that we could roll back that decision politically. The Human Life Amendment, surely, the American people, when they saw the truth, we could change this. As they understood the slaughter that the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) just described of millions of babies, surely they would overrule.

In 1980, when Ronald Reagan won and the Republicans took the Senate, where pro-lifers and conservatives for the first time started to look at the political system and said, we need to get involved, we thought it would change. We got tax cuts, we fought back communism, but we did not make progress on abortion; and it was incredibly frustrating over the years, as people came out for 30 years to march here in Washington.

One of the things we hear back home repeatedly is, does it do any good? I have been working in this movement for 30 years. Does it do any good? Is there any hope? What has happened in America? Is anybody sensitive? I remember one time when I was an undergraduate in our student government office, there was a debate about whether unwanted children should be born, and one of my friends turned to one of the abortion advocates and said, you know, my mom told me that at the time I was born, she really did not want me, and if abortion had been legal, she would have killed me. And he turned to this person and said, you would have killed me. I would be dead.

Do my colleagues know what? One of my big fears about talking tonight is that somehow, something is going to go wrong. It seems like after 30 years, we cannot possibly get something into law. But after all of those years of marches, we have not made a lot of progress, but this is an important step. Because if we pass this and then the Senate passes this, and then we have this President, we are actually going to save some babies' lives. We are actually going to pass legislation so people like my friend can say, I am alive because of how people voted, how people marched, how people spoke out. When people say there is no difference, that I cannot make a difference in this system, that my involvement does not do any good, I say to them, when this bill passes, those of us who have worked in the trenches, those of us who have been speaking out for years, those of us who have gotten involved in campaigns, in fact, your vote makes a difference,

your actions make a difference; and there are going to be babies growing up to be young adults and adults who will create families who would have been dead if you had not been involved.

So I thank my colleagues for their work. I thank the Members here, because this is a great day for America and a great day for those children.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana. I thank him for the passion that he has had for this issue since his time at Notre Dame. I am very pleased to have a son there at Notre Dame. I am very pleased that my oldest daughter was the first president of the Fire for Life chapter at her high school. And as the father of four, it is hard to imagine not having those children. It is hard to imagine children not having the opportunity to have the same experience that each of us as parents have had the opportunity to grow up with and watch and watch them develop.

As someone who is very familiar with children and has a passion for life, I would also like to yield to my good friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY).

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues have all heard the statement that says that years from now we will not remember what kind of houses we lived in or what kind of cars we drove, what material possessions we possessed; but we will remember if we made a difference in the life of a child.

Some years ago, actually before I decided to run for the State senate, I remember working in a newborn intensive care unit at Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh. There and at McGee Hospital, part of my job was to see the infants who had been born prematurely. I worked with the families and infants and made sure that we took care of dealing with any risks that they may have had for developmental disabilities, and dealing with the families and dealing with a child who was born at perhaps 27, 26, 25, 24 weeks.

It amazed me the miracles that I saw of these babies no bigger than my hand, no bigger than my hand, frail, transparent skin, eyes, in some cases they were so young, barely opened, of how we saw them struggle, but how we saw them breathe. And their hearts beating, you could see beneath their skin. And how, as time went on, we worked with the families and the nurses to help these young babies learn to deal with their world, not stress them too much so that they would grow up. It is amazing to me now, years after I started that career, to be seeing these children graduating from high school and graduating from college; children at that age that otherwise people would see as throwaway babies, throwaway babies; but they are very real.

As the history of our Nation is written, each generation that perhaps has been in this Chamber or the former Chamber has had its core issues it has dealt with. Initially there was the

forming of our Nation. What did the Constitution mean? There were also issues of the expansion west. There were issues of slavery. There were issues of civil rights, the women's suffrage, the different generations of folks who worked in these Chambers dealt with. I think one of the issues that will define our generation as legislators will be what we did to be meaningful in the life of a child.

I look upon this as perhaps there is no more humbling, but prouder, thing to do than to save a child's life. Many of us have also, I am sure, heard the phrase that says, if we get here, if we can make one small difference in the world, one small improvement, the votes we will take on this bill will do that, not just for one child, but for thousands and thousands, perhaps millions of children, who otherwise would have seen life untimely ripped from them, as it was.

But for me it is particularly important because I have seen these children live. I have seen children much younger than those we are talking about preventing their deaths thrive. I have talked to them. I have played baseball with them. We have laughed together; we have cried together. And it is important that we understand that it is part of that, that this is not just tissue. It is not just some amorphous cells there floating about; but these are real beings, real beings.

I am also struck as being a father. I know a lot of us speaking here tonight are men, and so many times those who are involved in this issue, they talk about, well, perhaps this is a women's rights issue. Let me speak about fatherhood. I do not think there is any more important thing we do as men on this Earth, outside of having a good relationship with our wives, than being fathers. That is the next generation we deal with. I think part of our role as fathers is to make sure we are there to nurture our children, to feed them, to clothe them, to provide for them, to play with them, to help teach them in the ways of life. But that is important, and it is not diminished because we are males. Our love and our compassion and our caring for children, it is very real. But it always has distressed me when sometimes these arguments come out about pro-life or pro-choice or abortion, that somehow, because a person is only a man, he does not get to have input on that.

If we were able in this Nation to bring men back in the fold, to work more with children, what a great Nation this would be. No longer having the troubles that so many children have, who have been abandoned by a parent, struggling along, a mom or a dad struggling with single parenthood, trying to make ends meet, but really working with them. How much better children's lives would be, if all men took that responsibility as a father seriously and not just there; but you have to continue to not just create life, but nurture children along the way.

It is because of that feeling as fathers that I think we also have an important role in making sure we preserve and work to protect the lives of these children as well. We love them as much, we cry when they are hurt, we shed a tear when they get married or when something sad happens to them. We love them as much, and we have every right to protect those lives. It is part of our responsibility as men and as fathers. And when people say it is not, that is part of something that weakens the American fabric of the family.

If you want to measure the strength of society, you can measure that strength by the integrity of the families within that society. If you want to see the weakness of the family, watch how culture after culture has tried to dismantle families, move parents away, split them up, raise them one way or another. It loses the core, loses the core of its being. We have that in America with families as long as we care for them and love them. That is why it is our duty, that is why it is our responsibility to make sure that we are there to protect the lives of these young children. So that years from now when we look back, we can say it did not matter what kind of house we lived in, what kind of car we drove, what we accumulated. We will be able to say with peace in our hearts, we were important in the life of a child.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, for speaking out with such passion and with such authority.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by sharing a story that is in my heart, a story and some thoughts on a community in my district that has recently shown us all the way that we should respect each other, that we should respect life itself.

When I heard for the first time that a shooting had occurred at Rocori High School in Cold Spring, Minnesota, last week, my first thought was disbelief. That is the last place in the world that I would have ever expected something like that to happen. Cold Spring is a community with well-maintained homes, clean-cut students, and active parents.

When I heard that the coach at that school bravely averted further bloodshed, I was not surprised. Many teachers from my time in high school came to mind that may have done the same thing. The Rocori school staff and the Cold Spring community reacted to the incident in a commendable fashion.

I have met many of the people from the community there and the St. Paul Parish community, including Father Clydis, at a pro-life dinner hosted in the parish school last year. The parish school gym was packed and the local community members served dinner. I remember the idyllic community scene, complete with a church and an American flag, painted on a wall in the gym. I remember the community choir who entertained us that evening and

the song, they sang a German song; and the whole room joining in except for me singing that German song. I know of no town in this great land where it takes their heritage, their families, their community, their faith, their life, people's lives more seriously.

Therefore, I had high expectations when I attended a service for Aaron Rollins, a 17-year-old senior who had been shot by a 15-year-old freshman. But I was taken aback when I walked into this beautiful, modern church that seated over 1,000. For a town of less than 3,000 to have such a commitment to a building in and of itself shows their commitment to each other and their faith. But over 1,500 people came out for that service, students, parents, townspeople. The service lasted over 2 hours, 2 hours; but it flew by. Nearly the entire senior class lined up on either side of the aisle as honorary pall bearers. We saw looks of devastation comforted by a quiet faith on the faces of children who had never before experienced such a loss.

□ 2145

A large number of them were dressed in khaki slacks and skirts, black shirts and camouflage ties to honor Aaron's love of hunting.

But what allowed the gathering not to be overcome with grief was their deeply held belief that even though Aaron barely missed last weekend's duck hunting opener in Minnesota, he now had a new home where the ducks were probably even more plentiful.

But watching this family and how they coped with it and the grief that they felt was just overwhelming. They prayed for Seth Bartell who was also shot and remained in critical condition. But the part of the service that really blew me away, really elevated me further for my respect for the people of Cold Spring and really showed us the true spirit of love and life was when twice during the service the young man who shot Aaron and Seth was lifted up in prayer.

They prayed that that family who struggled to cope with tragedy, that the community show them the compassion and understanding that we want to see in this world.

I think Cold Spring indeed calls us to a higher level. If they can reach out for such compassion towards someone who has inflicted so much pain, how can we not reach out with an equal amount of compassion to those who have done no harm to anyone, the unborn?

That is why we gather here.

I encourage all my colleagues to vote for this ban of partial-birth abortion.

This city whose granite has built beautiful memorials on the Mall here in our Nation's Capital, they have shown us that their values are as solid as that granite. Let us follow their example.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. EVANS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of personal reasons.

Ms. ESHOO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of a family illness.

Mr. HYDE (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today after 2:00 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of a surgical procedure.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DEFAZIO) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. HINCHEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. DAVIS of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TOWNS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MALONEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STUPAK, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ROHRBACHER, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. BORDALLO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1261. An act to reauthorize the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

S. 1680. An act to reauthorize the Defense Production Act of 1950, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on September 30, 2003 he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 3146. To extend the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program, and certain tax and trade programs, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, October 2, 2003, at 10 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for speaker-authorized official travel during the second quarter of 2003, pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, RAVI SAWHNEY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 11 AND APR. 20, 2003

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Ravi Sawhney ³	4/11	4/20	India .....	.....	.....	.....	2,418.00	.....	1,154.00	.....	3,573.00
Committee total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,418.00	.....	1,154.00	.....	3,573.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Office of Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee.